

LANsultants Times

Your official Source for LANsultants News

Vol 6 No. 4

1528 Walnut St, Suite 1610, Philadelphia, PA 19102

April 2004

VIRUS HOAXES AND SCAMS

Hoax viruses are a growing problem which can be as destructive as the real thing.

A hoax virus is an e-mail message that warns the user that his/her workstation is infected with a virus (which isn't true). It then directs the user to remove the virus by deleting a legitimate Windows file and/or to pass on a warning message to colleagues. The user is thereby tricked into damaging their own workstation and to encourage others to do the same. It is remarkably common for people to accept these emails at face value and to vandalize their own computers as instructed.

Some recent hoax viruses include the "WTC Survivor" which instructs you to delete all DLL files on your computer (typically rendering it inoperable), "A Virtual Card for You" which simply bogs down networks if recipients send the warning to 25 friends as instructed, and the "Jdbgmgr" hoax which instructs users to delete files that are necessary for running Java applications.

For a comprehensive list of hoax viruses visit <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html> or <http://www.trendmicro.com/vinfo/hoaxes/hoax.asp>

It's our recommendation that you never follow instructions received via e-mail to either delete files from your computer system or to send e-mail warnings to others. If in doubt, call LANsultants or contact your office manager.

A related phenomena we have seen recently is the deceptive email that tricks the user into installing a real virus on his/her workstation. The email appears to be from the IT department of your own organization and instructs you to access an attached file using a provided password.

Continued on Column 2 ➤

Continued from Column 1

This file then installs a trojan virus on your PC. Again, our advice is to never follow instructions from unknown parties to install or delete anything on your PC.

WiMAX may make wireless networks a reality

Existing wireless technology has failed to provide the reliability and performance necessary to compete with conventional LANs for most uses. A new wireless technology that's under development called "WiMAX" may make wireless networking a practical reality. Although it's still years away from widespread use, WiMAX promises 30-mile coverage from a single access point. WiMAX is also expected to be compatible with cellular telephones as well as computers.

If WiMAX delivers as promised, it may be possible to setup a single WiMAX access point in Center City which would provide seamless wireless access to the Internet and your main office network from home, your satellite offices, or anyplace else you need to be!

The first WiMAX products are expected to ship in late 2005.

WinStar Closing Down

WinStar has provided 60 days notice that it will cease providing telephone and Internet service on June 6th. If you are a WinStar customer you must make immediate arrangements for alternative telephone and/or Internet service. For assistance please call LANsultants.

This is a informational newsletter of LANsultants, Inc. To unsubscribe from this and other email marketing communications please e-mail Shirlean@LANsultants.com or provide your written request to our postal address.